

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 5, 2008

6:00 P.M.

Mayor Ronnie Torres called the Regular Meeting of the Belen City Council to order at 6:00 P.M.
Roll call taken by Sally G. Garley, City Manager.

PRESENT:

Ronnie Torres, Mayor
David Lopez, Mayor Pro-Tem
Rudy Jaramillo, Councilor

ABSENT:

Terese Ulivarri, Councilor
Wayne Gallegos, Councilor

CITY STAFF:

Sally G. Garley, City Manager
Audrey Torres, Procurement Specialist
Mike Chavez, Police Chief
Julie Baca, Street Community Service Director

STUDENT LIASION:

Alexis Gutierrez

OTHERS:

Norman McDonald, P.A., City Attorney
Jackie Schlotfeldt, VCNB
Gilbert Tabet, Circle T
Sonny Sanchez, VFW
CJ Visser, Sunrise Bluff
James Garley, VFW 9676
Jeff Fladd, American Legion Post 81
George McKee, VFW Post 2387
Gloria Sanchez, Citizen
Paul Davidson, Citizen
Jacquie Martinez, Molzen-Corbin & Associates
Kevin Eades, Molzen-Corbin & Associates
Gerald Guthrie, American Legion Post 81
Winton Allen, American Legion Post 81
Peter Norton, DAV Chapter 29
Mickey Cone, Desi Loop NWA
Richard Gomulea, 812 Desi Loop

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked Sonny Sanchez to lead the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of tonight's agenda. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo so moved to approve as amended. Councilor David Lopez seconds the motion, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting: April 21, 2008

Mayor Ronnie Torres requested approval of the minutes for April 21, 2008. Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez so moved to approve the minutes. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo second the motion, motion carried.

CITIZENS PETITIONS:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked if there was anyone with a citizen petition, no further petitions were presented.

1. **Albert Chavez:** approached the podium and said during the past six years he and his wife have been a victim of crime three times, stolen property and graffiti. He passed out pictures of graffiti on his property. He said that 'a week ago today he went outside my home to do my daily chores my intention was quickly caught by graffiti on one of my buildings. That day I debated to call the police or why bother, I called and asked to speak to Chief Mike Chavez we set a time and date to when the police would come to my home. Chief Chavez said he probably would not come but he would send someone. Tuesday morning two detectives and Chief Chavez arrived at my home, very professional, they collected evidence that the vandals had left behind. That same day in the afternoon these professional arrested two individuals, juveniles, who later admitted doing the crime. That is awesome, extraordinary work. Next step will the judicial system follow up that is the big question now. So I ask you City Government to fully fund our police force, in equipment they need and incentive, better pay, benefits could probably keep our police here". Mr. Chavez said he learned that most of our officers use the City as a stepping stone to another job to larger cities who offer them better deals. He thanked Chief Chavez and the professionals for a job well done.
2. **Gilbert Tabet:** approached the bench and said he was there to represent the residents of Jardin De Belen and Sunrise Bluffs and they are petitioning for road construction performed on Camino Del Llano west of I25 to the hilltop. The condition of the road has become dangerous with potholes and patching that was done previously. Also the big trucks have created cracking on pavement resulting in dangerous driving conditions. He handed the petition to Mayor Ronnie Torres.

Mayor Torres advised that a couple of years ago and have been working on this project for some time. The Corps of Engineers did award funds but things happened and we did not get matching legislative funds. Now we are going about things a different way and are looking at another funding source. We have the design and asked Kevin Eades, Molzen Corbin & Associates, what percentage of the design plan is in place. Mr. Eades advised that they about 60% complete and shooting at construction to begin this time next year. The project is about 5 or 6 million dollars that will take care of drainage, expand the roadways as far as widening it, curb and gutter, improve from Christopher road, which accesses the High School, all the way up over the top of the hill to the top of the hill to the last entrance in Jardin. It will take care of the drainage on the side which has been eroding forever it will have striping, lighting as well as striping underneath the interstate to tie in to the existing on and off ramps. We are about 60 to 65% complete the Corp funding is 1.62 million to cover the drainage portion so we are trying to coordinate the rest.

Mr. Gilbert Tabet said he understands all that they are saying but can't the city go up there and do something about it in the meantime and not just throw black stuff over the bumps. Mayor Ronnie Torres said he has the crew going up there tomorrow.

3. **Mickey Cone:** followed up and said he was the president of the neighborhood watch association up on Desi Loop which represents almost 40 homes. They have been having meetings and every meeting for the past two years the road has been an issue. "If anyone has ever driven up there, anyone who is coming down the road and there is someone coming up towards you, you have to be aware that those people going up the hill are not on their side of the road they actually go over the yellow line and I have had numerous times have to pull to the right to keep from hitting those vehicles. It is a dangerous situation also not just a rough road".

Mayor Torres said they had hoped this project would have started over a year ago but because of funding we have been meeting with the City Manager and we believe we do have a source that should be a sure thing. This particular road will take care of a lot of issues including economic, flooding and safety. When the project started it was at 2 million and now it is at six or so million so we have to do something right away. We cannot afford to be waiting any longer because of the prices are going up higher and higher.

Kevin Eades, Molzen Corbin & Associates advised that the top of the road has been adjusted, at the Mayors direction, not only horizontal but the vertical alignment on the hill. There are two problems you have a horizontal curve at the same time you crest and you have vertical curve so you don't see the people on the other side so we are going to cut about 8 feet from the top of the hill so that you can see the people coming and we are going to straighten out the corner a little and move the road over about 20 feet so hopefully that will make the situation better.

Mayor Ronnie Torres advised that when the design is done we will have something out here to have residents come look at it. It will be something informal.

Mayor Torres asked if there were any further citizen petitions, at this time there were no further citizen petitions presented.

PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY PROGRAM: Gloria Sanchez and Julie Baca

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to a presentation of Memorial Day Ceremony program as presented by Gloria Sanchez and Julie Baca. Gloria Sanchez approached the podium and handed out a copy of the program to City Councilors. A copy of the pamphlet is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference. Gloria had a prepared statement which she read aloud a copy of which is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

RECOGNITION OF VALENCIA COUNTY VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS 1 200TH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: Mayor Ronnie Torres

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to recognition of Valencia County Veteran Organizations as well as 1 200th Army National Guard as presented by Mayor Ronnie Torres who said “we are honored to have some special guests with us this evening. Valencia County is very fortunate to have the following veteran organizations that continue to serve their communities. These veterans are involved in local military ceremonies and events but they also place American flags on the grave sites of veterans for Memorial Day, promoting projects such as Buddy Poppy Days and reflecting their commitment to honoring the dead by helping the living. Sponsoring meals for not only their members but for the general public they also conduct raffles golf tournaments in order to raise funds as well as presenting special grants to individual disabled veterans. We want to thank you we respect you we look up to you because of your love and support for the communities and the defense of our country the United States of America. We would also like to present you with a token of our appreciation. At this time Mayor Ronnie Torres read as follows:

1-200th NM National Guard represented by Sgt. First Class Miguel Cordova
Chavez-Curran, VFW Post 2387, represented by Commander George McKee by Jeff Ladd
Daniel D. Fernandez, VFW Post 9676, represented by Commander James Garley
Secundino Baldonado, American Legion Post 81, represented by Commander Michael Martin
John P. Elliott, American Legion Post 85, represented by Commander Gary Fullerton
Luperto Garcia, Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 29, represented by Commander Peter Norton

ACTION ITEMS

AWARD ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NORTH I-25 INTERCHANGE: Sally G. Garley

Mayor Ronnie Torres read the next agenda item in reference to award Engineering Consultants for design of the North I-25 Interchange as presented by City Manager, Sally G. Garley who advised two proposals were received; HDR and Wilson and Company, proposals were evaluated and recommendation to award was made for Wilson & Company. Mayor Torres asked if there were any questions if none he so entertains a motion. Councilor Rudy Jaramillo moved to approve as presented. Mayor Pro-tem David Lopez seconds the motion, motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

CITY MANAGERS REPORT:

City Managers report is attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL:

Alexis Gutierrez: the last couple of weeks there was an international festival where students get to dress up as different countries from around the world and give samples of food from that region. The upcoming week is student council elections so hopefully you will be seeing more students coming to these meetings. Next week finals start and May 8 is the awards ceremony for musicians at the school. Thanks to Marie Smrt who will be retiring after 30 years. Prom went better than expected we were hoping for a huge turnout and there were 150 in attendance and the food and atmosphere were great.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo: good for that on the prom nobody injured, nobody hurt, that was a great thing for our seniors, our future right here. On the veterans, commend you guys, my father was a veteran in WWII my father in law was a veteran, my son was a Marine, I commend you guys. I think we have what we have because you guys stood and I think sometimes we don't say it but it is an honor for you guys. I have known George most of my life he is like a second father to me and raised us up with his children it touches me to see guys that gave themselves to fight for our country. Also the courthouse had a ribbon cutting on Friday and there was a quite bit of people out there the facility is just awesome. We had a new business that just started here the Roadrunner Pit Stop and they had their ribbon cutting on Saturday grand opening for them. Another new business that I didn't even know was here was Adelitas on South Main. I seldom drive up there and I was going up that way and saw this restaurant haven't stopped in there yet but I will go down. I understand they have been there a couple of months, patronize those businesses that are getting started it is hard to get started in any business and just give them a little boost.

Councilor Wayne Gallegos: absent

Mayor Ronnie Torres: we also have Carmona's that opened up next door here. I was talking to someone the other day from Alco they say they are having a hard time there too just like a lot of business in town it is slow and the economy and all kinds of things. No one has given me the answer yet but I would like to know how we can get our citizens to shop local and to buy local because we are the first ones to complain that we have nothing in this community. But many of us are the first ones to shop at another community to buy a car, grocery shop, I kid you not to go grocery shopping somewhere else, to go buy furniture whatever they need. I heard from somebody they other day said "the people that are coming in to my store are the people that are moving into town", the new people that are moving in. They see some of the little stores that we have had here forever and a lot of us as natives take for granted or just forget that they are there. We need to rediscover Belen, go into our local stores and start shopping there again because if we don't do that they won't stay here forever they can't afford to stay here. I know a lot of time that people remember them when they are looking for a donation. You should not bother to ask

for a donation if you do not patronize that business. We need to make an effort for ourselves and people that we know when you talk to people always promote another business. I know people talked to me the other day and were talking about furniture and I told them have you tried Hub Furniture and Belen Discount Furniture and they said that they like the Ashley furniture and I told them if you go to hub furniture they can match the price for you. Plus you don't have to pay delivery it is delivered free.

Councilor Terese Ulivarri: absent

Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez: to recap on what Councilor Rudy Jaramillo said thanks to all Veterans my father is a veteran he takes everything to heart, his plane went down in Vietnam so it was a pretty close call for him so he really appreciates the people who helped him and helped save his life when they went down so he is always thankful for that. Also Mr. Tabet with the Camino Del Llano project once the project is completed it is a lot easier to ask for funds to complete it.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Ronnie Torres asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Councilor Rudy Jaramillo moved to adjourn this meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem David Lopez seconds the motion, motion carried.

Ronnie Torres, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sally G. Garley, City Manager